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Recent Videos by Russian Master Filmmaker Alexander Sokurov Featured at Cleveland Museum of Art

Free Holiday Film Festival Highlights Movies By Billy Wilder

CLEVELAND (Nov. 15, 2002) — Author and filmmaker Susan Sontag has described Alexander Sokurov as "perhaps the most ambitious and original serious filmmaker of his generation." Sokurov supplements his feature film productions (*Mother and Son, Russian Ark*) with poetic essays and elegies shot on video. This December, the Cleveland Museum of Art will present **Alexander Sokurov: Recent Video Work**, featuring the Cleveland premieres of six of his most recent videos. Focusing on diverse subjects, these dreamy, diaphanous works function as aching meditations on life, death, history, aesthetics and metaphysics.

Admission to each two-part film or double feature is $6 ($4 CMA members).

Spiritual Voices (Part One, Dec. 7; Part Two, Dec. 8) explores the physical and psychological costs of warfare, focusing on soldiers stationed on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. *The Christian Science Monitor*'s David Sterritt has described it as "one of the (New York Video) Festival's best works." *Confession* (Part One, Dec. 14; Part Two, Dec. 15) reveals a Russian sea captain's physical, visual and emotional disconnection. It "parallels the outer journey of the ship with the inner voyage of the captain, the destiny of Russia with his individual fate" (James Quandt, *Cinematheque Ontario Programme Guide*). Two video poems will be shown as a double feature Dec. 21: *Oriental Elegy*, a lyrical inquiry into the afterlife; and *Dolce*, which focuses on Japanese writer Toshio Shimao's widow, who lives a Spartan existence with her disabled daughter on an isolated island. The double feature on Dec. 22 will be *Elegy of a Voyage*, which chronicles a man's journey across snow-covered landscapes to arrive at a deserted museum at night; and *An Elegy from Russia*, "one of [Sokurov's] most sublime achievements" (Tony Pipolo, *Film Comment*). The latter is a metaphorical overview of the last 100 years of Russian history.

The museum's **free** holiday film festival — **Wilder at Heart** — pays tribute to director Billy Wilder, who died earlier this year. He created many famous masterpieces (*Double Indemnity, Sunset Boulevard, Some Like It Hot, The Apartment*) as well as these lesser-known gems that brim with his unmistakable wit, cynicism and verve: *Ace in the Hole (The Big Carnival)* (Dec. 26); *One, Two, Three* (Dec. 27); *Kiss Me, Stupid* (Dec. 28); *Avanti!* (Dec. 29) and *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* (Dec. 31). These movies are not recommended for children.

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 5,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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Note to Editors: **Listings follow. Digital images available upon request.**